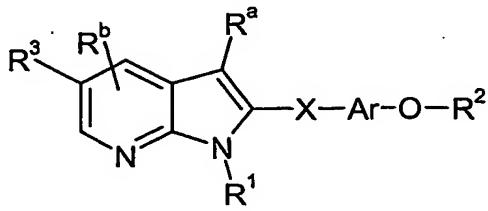


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



I

5 wherein

R¹ is a C₁₋₁₂ group;

X is a C₁₋₁₀ divalent group that separates groups connected thereto by one or two saturated carbons;

Ar is C₄₋₁₂ divalent aromatic group;

10 R² is optionally substituted C₁₋₆hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted C₆₋₁₀aryl, or optionally substituted C₃₋₆heteroaryl;

R³ is a C₁₋₁₂ group, wherein the atom of R³ that is directly connected to the six-membered ring of formula I is a nitrogen, or an unsaturated carbon, wherein the unsaturated carbon is connected to an oxygen through a double bond; and

15 R^a and R^b are -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, or -NRC(=O)R, wherein R is independently -H or C₁₋₆ hydrocarbyl.

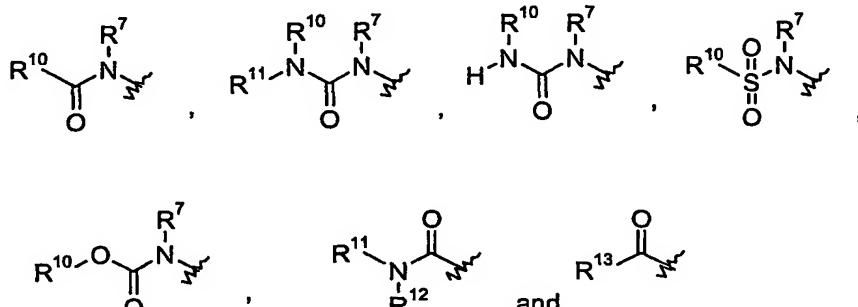
2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

20 R¹ is optionally substituted C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbyl; optionally substituted C₁₋₁₀acyl; optionally substituted C₄₋₈heteroaryl-C(=O)-; R⁴R⁵N-C₁₋₆alkyl; R⁴R⁵NC(=O)-C₁₋₆alkyl; R⁴O-C₁₋₆alkyl; R⁴OC(=O)-C₁₋₆alkyl; R⁴C(=O)-C₁₋₆alkyl; R⁴C(=O)NR⁴-C₁₋₆alkyl; R⁴R⁵NSO₂-C₁₋₆alkyl; R⁴CSO₂N(R⁵)-C₁₋₆alkyl; R⁴R⁵NC(=O)N(R⁶)-C₁₋₆alkyl; R⁴R⁵NSO₂N(R⁶)-C₁₋₆alkyl; optionally substituted aryl-C₁₋₆alkyl; optionally substituted aryl-C(=O)-C₁₋₆alkyl; optionally 25 substituted heterocyclyl-C₁₋₆alkyl; optionally substituted heterocyclyl-C(=O)-C₁₋₆alkyl; and C₁₋₁₀hydrocarbylamino;

- 63 -

wherein R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from -H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, or a divalent C₁₋₆group that together with another divalent C₁₋₆group forms a portion of a ring;

R^3 is selected from:



5

wherein

R^7 is selected from -H, optionally substituted C₁₋₆alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₆₋₁₀aryl, or optionally substituted C₃₋₆heteroaryl;

10 R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₆alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₆₋₁₀aryl, or optionally substituted C₃₋₆heteroaryl; and R^a and R^b are hydrogen.

15 3. A compound as claimed claim 1,

wherein R^1 is selected from C₁₋₈alkyl; C₂₋₈alkenyl; C₂₋₈alkynyl; optionally substituted aryl-C₁₋₆alkyl; $R^4R^5NC_{1-6}$ alkyl; R^4OC_{1-6} alkyl; C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆alkyl; optionally substituted C₃₋₆heterocycloalkyl-C₁₋₆alkyl; C₁₋₆alkyl-C₆₋₈aryl; C₁₋₆alkyl-C(=O)-; C₆₋₈aryl-C(=O)-; C₃₋₈heteroaryl-C(=O)-; or optionally substituted C₃₋₆heteroaryl-C₁₋₆alkyl;

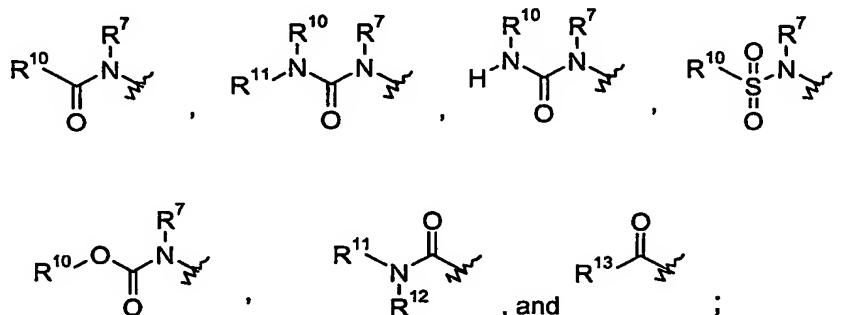
20 wherein R^2 is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyl substituted by at least one fluorine, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl substituted by at least one fluorine, C₂₋₆alkynyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl substituted by at least one fluorine, optionally substituted C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₆₋₁₀aryl, and optionally substituted C₃₋₆heteroaryl;

25 R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from the group consisting of -H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, and a divalent C₁₋₆group that together with another divalent C₁₋₆group forms a portion of a ring;

- 64 -

X is selected from the group consisting of $-NR^6-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-O-$, $-C(R^8)(R^9)-$, and $-S(O)_q-$, wherein q is 0, 1 or 2, wherein R^8 and R^9 are independently C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, $-OH$, or $-H$; at most one of R_8 and R_9 is $-OH$;

R^3 is selected from:



wherein

R^7 is selected from $-H$, optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{6-10} aryl, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} heteroaryl;

10 R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{6-10} aryl, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} heteroaryl; and R^a and R^b are hydrogen.

15 4. A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein

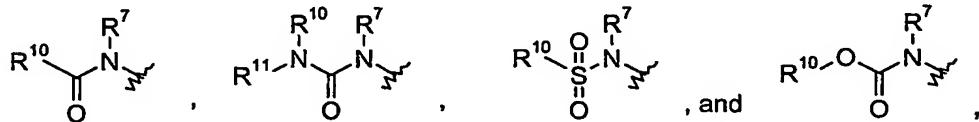
R^1 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl; C_{2-6} alkenyl; C_{2-6} alkynyl; optionally substituted C_{3-6} cycloalkylmethyl; optionally substituted C_{3-6} heterocycloalkylmethyl;

X is $-CH_2-$;

Ar is phenylene or pyridylene;

20 R^2 is selected from $-CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_3$, $-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH_2CF_3$, CF_3 , cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl and phenyl; and

R^3 is selected from



wherein, R^7 is selected from $-H$ and methyl; R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected

25 from optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl, optionally substituted

- 65 -

C₂-alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃-6cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₆-10 aryl, or optionally substituted C₃-6heteroaryl.

5. A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein

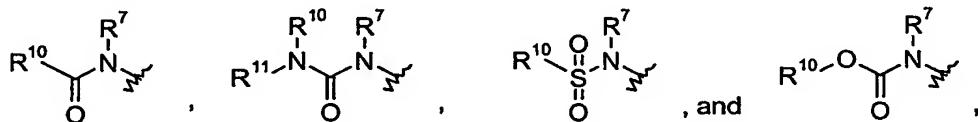
5 R¹ is selected from C₁-alkyl; C₂-6alkenyl; C₂-6 alkynyl; optionally substituted C₃-6cycloalkylmethyl; optionally substituted C₃-6heterocycloalkylmethyl;

X is -CH₂-;

Ar is selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted *para*-arylene; an optionally substituted a six-membered *para*-heteroarylene;

10 R² is selected from -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, -CH(CH₃)₂, -CH₂CF₃, CF₃, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl and phenyl; and

R³ is selected from:



15 wherein, R⁷ is selected from -H and methyl; R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are selected from optionally substituted C₁-6alkyl, optionally substituted C₂-6alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂-6 alkynyl, optionally substituted C₃-6cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₆-10 aryl, or optionally substituted C₃-6heteroaryl.

6. A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein

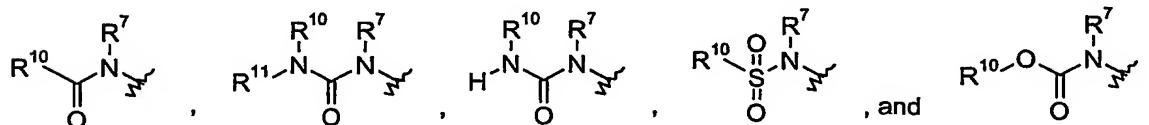
20 R¹ is selected from optionally substituted C₃-6cycloalkylmethyl; and optionally substituted C₃-6heterocycloalkylmethyl;

X is -CH₂-;

Ar is *para*-phenylene or *para*-pyridylene;

R² is methyl, or ethyl; and

25 R³ is selected from



wherein, R⁷ is selected from -H and methyl; R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are selected from C₁-6alkyl, C₃-6cycloalkyl, phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, nitro, C₁-3alkyl, -COOR¹⁴, -OH,

cyano, trifluormethyl, C₁₋₃alkyloxy; C₃₋₆heteroaryl optionally substituted with halogen, nitro, C₁₋₃alkyl, -COOR¹⁴, -OH, cyano, trifluormethyl, C₁₋₃alkyloxy, wherein R¹⁴ is a C₁₋₃alkyl.

7. A compound selected from:

- 5 1) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,2-dimethyl-propanamide;
- 2) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(3-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,2-dimethyl-propanamide;
- 3) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-*N'*-(1-methylethyl)-urea;
- 10 4) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,3-dimethyl-butanamide;
- 5) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,2-dimethyl-propanamide;
- 15 6) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-cyclopropanecarboxamide;
- 7) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,2,2-trimethyl-propanamide;
- 20 8) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,*N*'-diethyl-*N*-methyl-urea;
- 9) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,5-dimethyl-3-isoxazolecarboxamide;
- 10) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2-fluoro-*N*-methyl-benzamide;
- 25 11) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,2-dimethyl-propanamide;
- 12) [1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-, 1-methylethyl ester carbamic acid;
- 13) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,2,2-trimethyl-propanamide;
- 30 14) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,3-dimethyl-butanamide;

15) *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-*N'*-(1-methylethyl)-urea;

16) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,2-dimethyl-propanamide;

5 17) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,6-difluoro-*N*-methyl-benzenesulfonamide;

18) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-cyclobutanecarboxamide;

19) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,5-difluoro-*N*-methyl-benzamide;

10 20) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,2-dimethyl-propanamide;

21) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,2,2-trimethyl-propanamide;

15 22) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-*N'*-(1-methylethyl)-urea;

23) *N*-[2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,3-dimethyl-butanamide;

24) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,2-dimethyl-propanamide;

20 25) [1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-, methyl ester carbamic acid;

26) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-2,6-difluoro-*N*-methyl-benzenesulfonamide;

27) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-2-pyridinecarboxamide;

28) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,3-dimethyl-butanamide;

29) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-*N'*-(1-methylethyl)-urea;

30 30) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,1-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazole-5-sulfonamide;

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31) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-4-(dimethylamino)-*N*-methyl- benzamide;

32) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*,5-dimethyl-3-isoxazolecarboxamide;

5 33) 4-[[[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]methylamino]sulfonyl]-benzoic acid;

34) *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-2-nitro-benzenesulfonamide; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

10

8. A compound according to any one of claims 1-7 for use as a medicament.

9. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-7 in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapy of pain.

15

10. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-7 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of immune cancer.

20

11. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-7 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, Alzheimer's disease, anxiety disorders, gastrointestinal disorders or cardiovascular disorders.

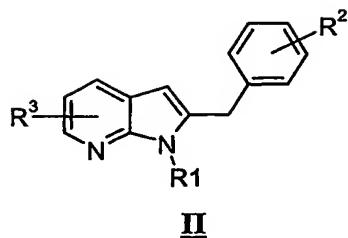
12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1-7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25

13. A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-7.

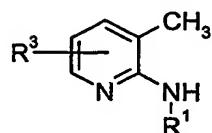
30 14. A method for preparing a compound of formula II,

- 69 -



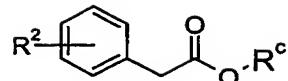
comprising the steps of

a) reacting a compound of formula III,



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with a base having a pKa more than 20;



b) reacting a product formed in step a) with a compound of formula IV,

IV

to form the compound of formula II,

wherein

10 R^1 is optionally substituted C_{1-10} hydrocarbyl; optionally substituted C_{1-10} acyl; optionally substituted C_{4-8} heteroaryl-C(=O)-; $R^4R^5N-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4R^5NC(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; R^4O-C_{1-6} alkyl; $R^4OC(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4C(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4C(=O)NR^4-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4R^5NSO_2-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4CSO_2N(R^5)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4R^5NC(=O)N(R^6)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4R^5NSO_2N(R^6)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; optionally substituted aryl- C_{1-6} alkyl; optionally substituted aryl-C(=O)- C_{1-6} alkyl; optionally substituted heterocyclyl- C_{1-6} alkyl; optionally substituted heterocyclyl-C(=O)- C_{1-6} alkyl; and C_{1-10} hydrocarbylamino;

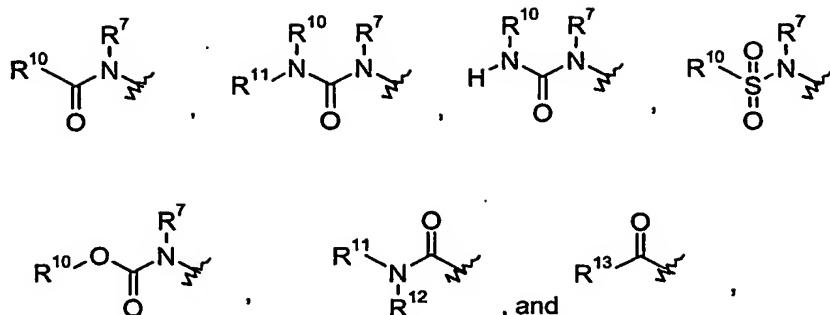
15

wherein R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from -H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, or a divalent C_{1-6} group that together with another divalent C_{1-6} group forms a portion 20 of a ring;

R^2 is optionally substituted C_{1-6} hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted C_{6-10} aryl, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} heteroaryl;

R^3 is selected from:

- 70 -



wherein

R^7 is selected from -H, optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{6-10} aryl, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} heteroaryl;

5

R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{6-10} aryl, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} heteroaryl; and

R^c is C_{1-4} alkyl.

10

15. A process as claimed in claim 14, wherein

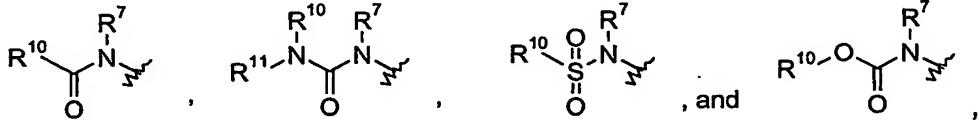
the base is t-butyl lithium;

R^1 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl; C_{2-6} alkenyl; C_{2-6} alkynyl; optionally substituted C_{3-6} cycloalkylmethyl; optionally substituted C_{3-6} heterocycloalkylmethyl;

15

R^2 is selected from - CH_3 , - CH_2CH_3 , - $CH(CH_3)_2$, - CH_2CF_3 , CF_3 , cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl and phenyl; and

R^3 is selected from:



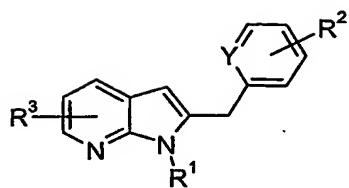
wherein, R^7 is selected from -H and methyl; R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected

20

from optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{6-10} aryl, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} heteroaryl.

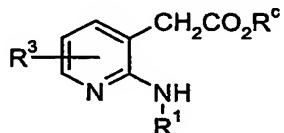
16. A process for preparing a compound of formula V,

- 71 -



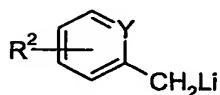
V

comprising the step of reacting a compound of formula VI,



VI

with a compound of formula VII,



VII

5

to form the compound of formula V,

wherein

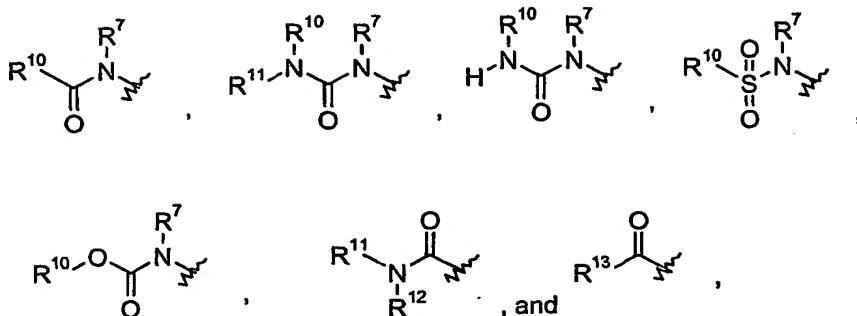
10 R^1 is optionally substituted C_{1-10} hydrocarbyl; optionally substituted C_{1-10} acyl; optionally substituted C_{4-8} heteroaryl-C(=O)-; $R^4R^5N-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4R^5NC(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; R^4O-C_{1-6} alkyl; $R^4OC(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4C(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4C(=O)NR^4-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4R^5NSO_2-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4CSO_2N(R^5)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4R^5NC(=O)N(R^6)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; $R^4R^5NSO_2N(R^6)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; optionally substituted aryl-C $_1$ - $_6$ alkyl; optionally substituted aryl-C(=O)-C $_1$ - $_6$ alkyl; optionally substituted heterocyclyl-C $_1$ - $_6$ alkyl; optionally substituted heterocyclyl-C(=O)-C $_1$ - $_6$ alkyl; and C_{1-10} hydrocarbylamino;

15 wherein R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from -H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, or a divalent C_{1-6} group that together with another divalent C_{1-6} group forms a portion of a ring;

20 R^2 is optionally substituted C_{1-6} hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted C_{6-10} aryl, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} heteroaryl;

20 R^3 is selected from:

- 72 -



wherein

R^7 is selected from -H, optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{6-10} aryl, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} heteroaryl;

R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{6-10} aryl, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} heteroaryl;

Y is CH or N; and

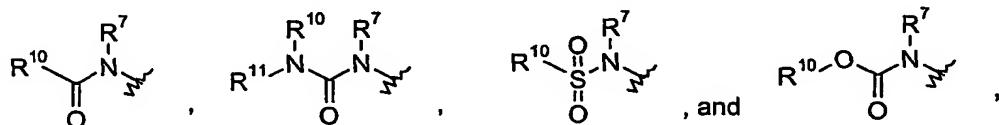
R^c is C_{1-4} alkyl.

17. A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein

R^1 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl; C_{2-6} alkenyl; C_{2-6} alkynyl; optionally substituted C_{3-6} cycloalkylmethyl; optionally substituted C_{3-6} heterocycloalkylmethyl;

R^2 is selected from - CH_3 , - CH_2CH_3 , - $CH(CH_3)_2$, - CH_2CF_3 , CF_3 , cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl and phenyl; and

R^3 is selected from:



wherein, R^7 is selected from -H and methyl; R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected

from optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{6-10} aryl, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} heteroaryl.